

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3340

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (RIEGLE, DONALD W.)

SUBJ: CODEL RIEGLE

1. CONGRESSMAN DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR. ENDED WHAT WE BELIEVE TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE THREE-DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL AFTERNOON OF MAY 28. DURING VISIT HOSTED BY ISRAELI MFA, RIEGLE MET WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS IN MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE, HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH YERUSHAM MESHEL, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF HISTADRUT, AND YITZHAK NAVON, CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE KNESSET. RIEGLE HAD A PRIVATE MEETING WITH FONMIN ALLON AND TWO PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH DEF MIN PERES, THE SECOND BEING MUTUALLY AGREED UPON AFTER A USEFUL FIRST MEETING. THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK AT LENGTH WITH A GROUP OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, AND TO VISIT YAD VASHEM, THE KNESSET, AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. CHARGE MET WITH RIEGLE FOR 1 1/2 HOURS SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL. SUBSEQUENTLY PLANNED MEETING WITH EMBOFFS CANCELLED AT RIEGLE'S REQUEST DUE TO SECON MEETING WITH PERES.

2. AT PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE, RIEGLE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ISRAELI WARMTH AND HOSPITALITY AT LEVELS BOTH OF ORDINARY CITIZENS

AND LEADERSHIP. HE AFFIRMED THE LONG-STANDING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL, AND THEIR MUTUAL DEDICATION TO UNCLASSIFIED

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DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID, SHARE STRATEGIC INTERESTS AND A COMMON DESTINY. RIEGLE PRESENTED HIMSELF AS A FRIEND OF ISRAEL (WITNESSED BY NINE YEARS OF PRO-ISRAEL VOTES IN THE CONGRESS) WHO RECOGNIZED THE LIMITATIONS OF AN OUTSIDER

OFFERING ADVICE.

3. RIEGLE STATED THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED AT THIS FINAL POINT OF HIS TOUR OF THE MIDDLE EAST BY THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESOLVING THE MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL WITHIN REASONABLE FUTURE. HE WAS CONVINCED OF EGYPT' SINCERE DESIRE FOR PEACE AND THE NECESSITY FOR EGYPT TO ADDRESS INTERANAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE, BASED UPON HIS OWN ANALYSIS AND ON HIS TALKS WITH ARAB AND ISRAELI LEADERS, THAT THE GOLAN PROBLEM IS INSOLUBLE. THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM, AND THE ONE UPON WHICH " WE MUST NOW BEGIN TO FOCUS OUR GENIUS", REMAINS THAT OF THE PALESTINIANS AND THE WEST BANK. IN SPEAKING OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, HE SAID THAT HOPES FOR PEACE MUST TAKE THE PALESTINIANS INTO ACCOUNT. IF IT IS NOT YET POSSIBLE TO THINK REALISTICALLY OF A SOLUTION FOR THE PALESTINAIANS, WE MUST AT LEAST PUT IT IN PROCESS. AND THE REASONABLE FUTURE--WITHIN WHICH A SOLUTION WILL COME--CERTAINLY SHOULD NOT BE LONGER THAN FIVE YEARS. RIEGLE POINTED TO THE "OPEN BRIDGES" POLICY AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW ARABS AND ISRAELIS CAN LEARN TO MAKE MUTUAL ADJUSTMENTS. HE ALSO CITED THE LIMITED PROGRESS IN THE SINAI, AND SUGGESTED THAT IT MAY BE USEFUL, IN THINKING OF AN OVERALL SOLUTION TO ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, TO TIE FUTURE STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS IN SINAI AND GOLAN TO PALESTINIAN PROCESS BY USE OF DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION (E.G., SIX MONTHS) OF SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED PARTIAL AGREEMENTS.

4. IN RESPONDING TO REPORTER'S QUESTION ON DEPTH OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, RIEGLE REPEATED WHAT HE SAID HE HAD TOLD ISRAELI LEADERS: THAT WHILE SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL REMAINS STRONG, ISRAELI PLANNING SHOULD INCLUDE CONSERATION OF INWARD TURN OF AMERICAN THINKING TOWARD PRESENT GRAVE ECONOMIC CRISIS. HE CITED UNEMPLOYMENT IN HIS MICHIGAN DISTRICT AT RATE GREATER THAN 20 PER CENT AND IN CENTRAL DETROIT AT GREATER THAN 30 PERCENT VELITOEES

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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